

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SAB-02 TRSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /077 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

PANCANAL

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097574

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (1ST LINE OF SUBJECT OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES
REPORT - APRIL 23 - APRIL 29

1. PREPARATIONS FOR THE MAY ROUND. SUPPORT GROUP MEMBERS
ARE DEVELOPING A NUMBER OF OPTIONS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES
(SHAPE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ENTITY, NEUTRALITY, EMPLOYEES,
EXPANSION, LANDS AND WATERS) FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
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NEGOTIATORS. IN THE MEANTIME, AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS,
PANAMA HAS BEEN SENDING A VARIETY OF SIGNALS ON VARIOUS
ASPECTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN AN INTERVIEW IN SAN JOSE,
ROMULO ESCOBAR BETHANCOURT SAID THAT IT IS NOW UP TO THE
UNITED STATES TO DEFINE ITS POSITION AND TO DETERMINE WHAT
THE PROMISES BY PRESIDENT CARTER MEAN. LATER IN PANAMA,
ESCOBAR SAID THAT THE US HAD REMOVED A MAJOR BARRIER IN THE

NEGOTIATIONS BY AGREEING TO REMOVE ITS ARMED FORCES BY THE YEAR 2000. ESCOBAR ALSO MAINTAINED THAT WHILE THE U.S. IN PUBLIC HAS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEUTRALITY ISSUE, IT HAS INPRACTICE NEGOTIATED HARD ON ALL ISSUES.

2. ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS. COMMENTS ON THE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE NOW BEEN RECEIVED FROM OMB, TREASURY, DOD AND AID. THE FOLLOW-ON TECHNICAL TEAM RETURNED FROM ITS VISIT TO THE CANAL ZONE ON APRIL 28 AND IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE A REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS EARLY NEXT WEEK. AS A RESULT OF THESE EFFORTS, WE THEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEVELOP A FORMAL U.S. POSITION ON THIS REMAINING TREATY ISSUE.

3. AMBASSADOR JORDEN CONSULTATIONS. AT THE REQUEST OF THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS, AMBASSADOR JORDEN IS PLANNING TO BE IN WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS COMMENCING MAY 5. HE WILL BE CALLING ON A NUMBER OF OFFICIALS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES AS WELL AS ON MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS.

4. MEETING WITH SECRETARY ALEXANDER. AMBASSADOR BUNKER MET WITH SECRETARY OF THE ARMY ALEXANDER ON APRIL 29 TO BRING THE SECRETARY UP TO DATE ON THE STATUS OF THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS.

5. ANTI-TREATY MAIL INCREASES. A REPORT PREPARED BY DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUREAU SHOWS THAT MAIL TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE DEPARTMENT ON PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS TOTALLED 5,183 LETTERS DURING EIGHT-WEEK PERIOD FROM FEB. CONFIDENTIAL

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28 TO APRIL 22. WEEKLY TOTALS RANGED FROM 396 TO 1,150, WITH PANAMA TOPPING ALL OTHER FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES MOST WEEKS. IN CONTRAST, 2,500 LETTERS WERE RECEIVED DURING EIGHT-WEEK PERIOD (APRIL 14-JUNE 7) IN 1976 WHEN PANAMA ISSUE WAS RECEIVING HEAVY PRESS ATTENTION DUE TO REPUBLICAN PRIMARY CAMPAIGN. VIRTUALLY ALL LETTERS OPPOSE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

6. PRESS. U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT MAY 2 ISSUE GIVES MAJOR COVERAGE TO PANAMA CANAL, WITH PRO-TREATY EDITORIAL AND THREE-PAGE REPORT ON SITUATION IN PANAMA AND AMONG CANAL EMPLOYEES. EDITORIAL, CITING DOD VIEW THAT ADHERENCE TO PERPETUITY IS UNREALISTIC AND DANGEROUS AND THAT FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS WOULD MAKE CANAL MORE VULNERABLE, DECLARES THAT NEW TREATY IS "URGENTLY NEEDED" AND THAT IT MUST HAVE DEFINITE TERMINATION DATE WHILE MEETING LEGITIMATE U.S. SECURITY INTERESTS.

7. MENDELSON CASE. ON APRIL 28, ARA/PAN RECEIVED A LETTER

FROM MR. MENDELSON WHICH AUTHORIZES THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO CONSULT DIRECTLY WITH THE MEDICAL DOCTORS WHO TREATED HIM DURING HIS HOSPITALIZATION IN THE VA HOSPITAL IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, AND TO OBTAIN HIS MEDICAL RECORDS FROM THE HOSPITAL. MR. MENDELSON IS PRESSING TO FILE A CLAIM AGAINST THE GOP. WE HAVE ADVISED HIM THAT BEFORE THE STATE DEPARTMENT CAN CONSIDER HIS CASE, HE MUST PURSUE AND EXHAUST HIS LOCAL REMEDIES AND PROVIDE US WITH A CLEAR LEGAL CASE WITH CONVINCING EVIDENCE. WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR A COPY OF HIS MEDICAL RECORDS FROM MIAMI. CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS CASE CONTINUES. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS, CANALS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE097574
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LA/PAN:EJNADEAU:LKB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770316-1133, D770151-0638
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977043/aaaaabvi.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 8a228ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2723544
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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